

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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*70 Years*  
*"A Partner in Conservation Since 1935"*

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March 23, 2005

Dear Farm Operator,

**SUBJECT: CSP Second Meeting Notice**

The final rule for the Conservation Security Program (CSP) and sign up period for 2005 was announced by USDA's **Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns** last week in Washington DC. *"This is a unique program that offers payments for enhancing natural resources and rewarding those farmers who are model conservationists and our best stewards"* said Johanns.

The CSP sign-up will be held March 28 through May 27, 2005 for farmers located in the Sauk Watershed. To prepare for signup and the interview appointments, you should attend one of two public meetings scheduled for **March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup>** starting at 10:00 AM in the **Freeport Community Center**. CSP Certification Worksheets, which are required by NRCS before accepting applications, will be distributed at the meetings. CSP applications will be accepted by NRCS in the USDA Service Center, Suite 128, **by appointment only**. No appointments will be made until April 11, 2005.

Anyone interested in signing up for CSP, must complete a Self-Assessment workbook **and the CSP Certification Worksheets**.

At the Freeport meetings NRCS will provide details on **CSP eligibility, signup processes and payment rates**. **Remember, you cannot schedule an appointment** without the completed CSP workbook and Certification Worksheets.

Detailed information about CSP in Minnesota and Certification Worksheets can be found at: <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven L. Sellnow", written in a cursive style.

Steven L. Sellnow  
District Conservationist